

Command to fight in cyberspace

WASHINGTON — Air Force Secretary Michael W. Wynne announced in November that 8th Air Force, led by Lt. Gen. Robert Elder, will become the service's new cyberspace command, focused on taking the fight against terrorism to the technological realm.

Cyberspace, as it will be covered by the new command, includes the Internet and other computer networks, as well as the electromagnetic spectrum. Terrorists have already exploited the electromagnetic spectrum in many ways, said Lani Kass, director of the cyberspace task force. She noted the use of improvised

explosive devices in Iraq, and the Sept. 11, 2001, masterminds using the Internet and satellite communications to plan the attack, and simulators to practice the attack.

The Air Force has been operating in cyberspace for some time, but the efforts have been widely dispersed, General Elder said. Also, cyberspace efforts until now have been mostly focused on defensive operations to protect the Air Force's network, he said.

The command's new capabilities will include the ability to attack other computer networks and will mostly be focused on being

proactive in the cyberspace realm.

General Elder will take four months to gather experts from the military and academia to decide how the command should be set up and what capabilities are needed. He noted that 8th Air Force already has many cyberspace capabilities, such as surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence, battle management, and electronic warfare, but those capabilities aren't focused. The task now is to develop "cyberspace warriors" who are skilled and able to react 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to any threats, he said.

"Road Show" ensures leaders share common message

WASHINGTON — Air Force senior officers and enlisted leaders are taking the Air Force story on the road across the country. Chief of Staff of the Air Force Gen. T. Michael Moseley said by actively engaging civilians and the press, senior leaders could help Americans better understand the Air Force goals, priorities and missions.

"It's important for Americans to remember that Airmen have been in combat in Southwest Asia (or the Middle East) for more than 16 years now," he said.

As part of the strategic out-

reach plan called the "Air Force Road Show," Air Force leaders at all levels will participate monthly in as many as six independent communications activities focused on different audiences.

One of the objectives of the plan is create more opportunities to speak with and meet with members of the "non-choir" public — that is, members of the public who are not in the Air Force, don't live near an Air Force base, and don't know anyone who has served in or is serving in the Air Force.

"We need to ensure Airmen, the public, Congress and the me-

dia all understand our Air Force priorities — winning the global war on terrorism, developing our Airmen, and recapitalizing our aging air and space inventories," the general said. "The Road Show plan will help us get there."

Under the Road Show plan, senior leaders speaking to the media and the general public will discuss topics such as force shaping, recapitalization, budget efforts, global strike, global mobility, cyberspace and Air Force contributions to operations Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

New I.D. cards more secure

WASHINGTON — New identification cards are now being issued to some Department of Defense employees to help standardize federal work force identification and enhance security.

The new common access card is part of departmental transformation efforts that harness common business practices to make the organization more efficient, said David S.C. Chu, the undersecretary of Defense for personnel and readiness.

"A key element of this new card

is it is a more secure document" than its predecessor, Mr. Chu said.

The new card, he said, accomplishes three main objectives: it makes the identification process more efficient, it helps prevent identity theft or fraud, and it better protects personal information, thus enhancing individual privacy.

The department began issuing the new ID cards in October. They will be provided to employees over the next three years as the old cards reach their expiration dates.

The new card looks similar to

the old one, but it features several enhancements, said Mary Dixon, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center in Arlington, Va. For example, the new CAC contains two fingerprints and a digital photograph, she noted.

President Bush directed that a single ID card be developed that's interoperable across all federal agencies, Mr. Chu said, using one common ID card throughout the federal government "builds trust across agencies, because there is then just one credential."

New PCS guidelines announced

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Leaders have directed assignment-related initiatives to reduce the permanent change of station budget deficit. Members serving in a Code 50 designated stabilized tour will automatically be extended 12 months beyond the current expiration date. The extension is in addition to any voluntary extension the member may have already entered. Career enlisted aviators and rated officers in flying positions are exempt. Members with a projected PCS based on the previous Code 50 rules may apply for cancellation.

Enlisted members and officers in the support, judge advocate,

chaplain and medical career fields as well as most rated staff positions will be subject to a 48-month Time On Station minimum before a PCS between stateside bases unless mission requirements dictate otherwise.

Officers selected for PME must have 24 months TOS prior to departure. Exceptions must be justified, and waivers must be requested by a general officer, colonel wing commander or equivalent.

Members serving in overseas assignments will serve their full tour length. Waivers will only be granted for mission requirements and must be requested by a general officer, colonel wing commander or equivalent.

There are exemptions, such as officers rotating to and from commander billets and humanitarian reassignments.

Funded joint spouse assignments, except those from one overseas location to another, will require 24 months TOS. Members can volunteer for permissive PCS if they have 12 months TOS and they travel concurrently; however, PCS entitlements must be waived, and they must agree to incur all PCS related costs.

The Washington D.C. tour review and officer time in area policy for San Antonio and Colorado are suspended. For more information visit the AFPC Web site at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/.

Air Force Inns implements online reservations

SAN ANTONIO — Air Force Inns now allows duty and space available travelers to book online lodging reservations at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls, Mont.

This project is part of the Defense Travel System plan to improve the Defense Department travel system, said Jeff Richard, the Air Force program manager for this initiative. Individuals and families on orders or who need space available rooms to Malmstrom may access Air Force Inns and Navy Gateway Inns and Suites Web site at <http://dodlodging.net>.

Eventually, Air Force and Navy Web reservation systems will in-

terface with DTS. The next bases to come online will be Whiteman AFB, Mo., and Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. Plans are to begin a full rollout with completion within 24 months, depending on funding.

All guests' personal information, including the credit card number, is encrypted and secured. Members will select the purpose of visit (TDY, space available, etc.), the number of guests and submit the request.

If there is space available for the requested dates of visit, the traveler will receive an onscreen and e-mail confirmation. If there is no space available and the trav-

eler is on duty orders, he or she will be asked to create a wait list reservation. That particular base will receive a flagged reservation request to see if they can try to find accommodations on base or at a commercial off-base hotel (if on duty orders).

Besides online lodging reservations, this entire centralized project will allow Air Force Inns up-to-date corporate reporting using business intelligence tools, fast and secure online credit card processing, electronic interface with centralized nonappropriated accounting system, and an online customer comment card system.

Rumsfeld praised, next SECDEF announced

SAN ANTONIO — Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld changed the way the military thinks about defense during his six years at the Pentagon.

"I learned a lot about leadership, forthrightness and attention to detail," Secretary Wynne said after the announcement that Secretary Rumsfeld will leave his Pentagon post.

At a White House news conference in November, President George Bush said he and Secretary

Rumsfeld agreed it was time for a change of Pentagon leadership. The president nominated Bob Gates, a former director of central intelligence and current president of Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, to replace the secretary.

Secretary Rumsfeld "led the Air Force to become lean, lethal and agile," Secretary Wynne said. "The department will miss his leadership."

Secretary Wynne said, "I look forward to working with Mr. Gates; he will undoubtedly bring ideas fused

with years of experience from various national security roles."

"Bob is a proven leader who has served six presidents — four Republicans and two Democrats," President Bush said. "He will provide a fresh outlook on our strategy in Iraq, and what we need to do to prevail."

The president praised Secretary Rumsfeld, the longest-serving member of his cabinet, who will be the longest-serving secretary of defense when he steps down.